

COMMISSION ON DISABILITY, TOWN OF ARLINGTON

20 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 203, ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476-6436 (781) 316-3431



Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2012

Members in Attendance: Kerrie Fallon, Mike Rademacher, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, John Thompson, Susan James

Members Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator

Meeting began at 4:15 pm

1. Meeting minutes from 10/17/12 reviewed and accepted

2. Announcements

- Discussion about Mill St apartments lottery for disabled and affordable
- Janice reports that the library's handicapped buttons have not been working, the library staff were made aware
- Concern calls made to ADA office- the Regent theater does not have assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired. Per the ADA requirement, they should have 4% (20 devices) available. They cost \$500.00 each, they cannot currently afford it. They will purchase 5 devices by the end of the year and then look to expand.
- In turn, the manager of the Regent asked if we could help with acquiring a handicap parking spot in front of the Regent. *Jack will petition for a spot with the Selectman's office.*
- Capitol Theater- 2nd floor theatres are not accessible as there is no elevator. They had previously had signage to report the accessibility issue but currently are not. Patrons do not find out which movies are not accessible until they arrive at the theatre. *Kerrie will call to follow up regarding accessibility, reporting of non-accessible theatres and whether they have listening devices.*
- Complaint about accessible parking at the senior center. Currently the senior vans are being parked in 2 accessible spots. Members questioned whether this was appropriate as the drivers of the vans are not disabled and perhaps they could be parked somewhere different to leave the spots open to disabled seniors visiting the building. There is also a possible long term plan of changing the layout within the parking area and drive through area to allow for better spots.
- Complaint regarding Arlington High School accessible parking. Jack spoke with the building supervisor, principal and superintendent. They agreed to put in an accessible door. The commission will use funds to put in a curb cut; however this will not be done until Spring of 2013. The school will not do the door until the curb cut is done. Two accessible parking spots will be added to the front of the building.

- Elections- Fox library- the accessible door was locked. Jack had the door unlocked and called the Selectmen to report it. The Secretary of State has brochures of what should be expected, these will be issued to the Selectmen.
- Greg Ames wants to do another career fair in April of 2013. And possibly another program specifically targeting the cognitively impaired in May. *Jack and commission will plan to ask for feedback regarding this location for the fair, and will work to arrange parking placards for the event.*
- Arlington Heights store fronts have 1 step entrance. Discussed potential of temporary ramps that stores could share vs permanent ramps inserted.
- Boys and Girls club does not have elevator access. Commission to follow up on this discussion.

3. Follow up on Sidewalk Repair issues

No one present at the meeting saw a letter to the editor in the Advocate regarding the new bricks on Academy St.

Reminder regarding follow up from last meeting: Jack to ask for a copy of permit regarding the historic block surrounding the Town Hall/Senior Center. Jack to look for selectmen minutes regarding conversation at a meeting regarding the town no longer using bricks for new projects and/or improvements.

The Commission will use the information gathered to organize what we are going to do and how to move forward regarding this issue.

4. Town Projects

Hurricane Sandy- \$125,000 public work spending. Clean up took a few weeks to complete. 3000 homes were without power at the height of the storm. Within 4-5 days everyone's power was restored.

5. Town Website

The website is accessible. Town is looking for new website software, they are well aware of the importance to maintain website accessibility.

6. Master Plan

The meeting hosted by the town addressed what people like/did not like/ what the town could be doing better. The town is to hire a consultant to gather info and come up with a plan. A few hundred people attended the event.

7. Other Business

- Ideas to explore within the commission carried forward from last meeting
- Friends of Commission to work on non profit fundraiser. *Kerrie to follow up with others regarding going forward with this possible plan.*

Next Meeting set for December 19, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm